



August 27, 2009

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Governor, State of Maryland  
State House, 100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

The elected members of the Maryland Black Mayors, Inc., strongly urge the state to include the Branch Avenue Metro Access/Phase II Project in its Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant application. As you are aware, this grant, which has a submission deadline of September 15, 2009, is an extension of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Branch Avenue Metro Access/Phase II Project has been the county's top priority for the past several years. The Branch Avenue Project is at 90 percent or better completion, and carries with it a construction cost of approximately \$70 million (which falls within the limits of the Grant funding of \$20 - \$300 million per project). Further, the minimal right-of-way that remains to be secured can be done in a timely manner in order to coincide with federal funding timelines.

Completion of the Branch Avenue Metro Access/Phase II Project would dramatically improve all modes of travel within this corridor, including transit, roadway/motorists, pedestrian and bicyclists. Project completion also would spur Transit Oriented Development within the surrounding Metro area, and provide a viable link to Andrews Air Force Base, which is scheduled to receive more than 3,000 additional employees through identified BRAC movements.

Again, we urge you to have the Branch Avenue Metro Access/Phase II Project included in Maryland's TIGER Grant submission. Should you care to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 301-336-2600 or via email on [eugene.grant@seatpleasantmd.gov](mailto:eugene.grant@seatpleasantmd.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E.W. Grant", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Eugene W. Grant  
President

MARYLAND BLACK MAYORS, INC. P.O. BOX 4612 CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20791